IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 7, 18 and 21 as follows:

1   Claim 1. (original) A method comprising:
2   employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web
3 server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a first user
4 tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client
5 information as a client record in a database;
6   the first web server directing a client to access a resource at the
7 second Web-Server;
8   said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client
9 record in the database;
10   the second web server decapsulating the location and retrieving the
11 client record from the database; and
12   the second web server using the client record in conjunction with a
13 second user tracking mechanism.

1   Claim 2. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first and
2 the second user tracking mechanisms use cookies for storing the user client
3 information.

1   Claim 3. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web
2 server authenticates the client, and the client record includes user
3 authentication data enabling the second web server to use a common sign-on
4 with the sign-on of the first web server.

1   Claim 4. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first web
2 server stores within the client record at least one parameter which
3 determines at least one characteristic of at least one page to be sent to the
4 client by the second web server.

1   Claim 5. (currently amended) A method as recited in ~~1~~ 4, wherein said
2 at least one parameter includes at least one user preference.

1   Claim 6. (original) A method as recited in 5, wherein said at least
2 one user preference is related to at least one detected purchasing habit.

1   Claim 7. (currently amended) A method comprising:
2   employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web
3 server in a second DNS domain,
4   enabling said first and second web servers to share cookie information;
5   ~~and~~

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6   coordinating cookies across said first and second domains;

7   storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and

8   creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information

9   about a location of the client record in the database.

1   Claim 8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step

2   of coordinating is performed by a cookie coordinator accessible to said first

3   and second Web-Servers.

1   Claim 9. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising

2   providing a cookie coordinator accessible to said first and second Web-

3   Servers to perform the step of coordinating.

1   Claim 10. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step

2   of enabling includes the first web server setting a first cookie having a

3   first identity and the second web server setting a second cookie having a

4   second identity, and the step of coordinating maps the first and second

5   identities to a third identity shared across said first and second domains.

1   Claim 11. (original) An apparatus comprising:

2   means for employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a

3   second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a

4   first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the

5   client information as a client record in a database;

6   means for the first web server directing a client to access a resource

7   at the second web server;

8   means for said resource encapsulating information about a location of

9   the client record in the database;

10   means for the second web server decapsulating the location and

11 retrieving the client record from the database; and

12   means for the second web server using the client record in conjunction

13 with a second user tracking mechanism.

1   Claim 12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer

2   usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein

3   for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web

4   server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the

5   computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture

6   comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to

7   effect the steps of claim 1.

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1   Claim 13. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer
2   usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein
3   for causing coordination of a first user tracking mechanism in a first web
4   server and a second user tracking mechanism in a second web-server, the
5   computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture
6   comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
7   effect the steps of claim 7.

1   Claim 14. (original) A method comprising:
2   employing a first user tracker in a first domain, and a second user
3   tracker in a second domain, wherein the first user tracker uses a first user
4   tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores the client
5   information as a client record in a database;
6   the first user tracker directing a client to access a resource at the
7   second user tracker;
8   said resource encapsulating information about a location of the client
9   record in the database;
10   the second user tracker decapsulating the location and retrieving the
11   client record from the database; and
12   the second user tracker using the client record in conjunction with a
13   second user tracking mechanism.

1   Claim 15. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,
2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to
3   perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the
4   steps of claim 1.

1   Claim 16. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,
2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to
3   perform method steps for using cookies, said method steps comprising the
4   steps of claim 7.

1   Claim 17. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer
2   usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein
3   for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in
4   said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means
5   for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 11.

1   Claim 18. (currently amended) A method comprising:
2   employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second web
3   server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server maintains a first

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4   private cookie at a browser and the second web server maintains a second

5   private cookie at the browser;

6   accessing a cookie coordinator when the first private cookie is

7   received by the first web-server~;~ ~and~;

8   mapping a first identity in the first private cookie and a second

9   identity in the second private cookie to a single identity common across the

10   multiple domains;

11   <u>storing a client record in a database by the first web server; and</u>

12   <u>creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates information</u>

·13   <u>about a location of the client record in the database</u>.

1   Claim 19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, further

2   comprising:

3   using the single identity to look up the identity of users across the

4   different domains, and

5   the cookie coordinator learning the mapping of the various cookies that

6   are placed independently on the browser by the different servers.

1   Claim 20. (original) A program storage device readable by machine,

2   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to

3   perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps comprising the

4   steps of claim 18.

1   Claim 21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

2   a web server interface to interface with a first web server in a first

3   DNS domain and to interface a second web server in a second DNS domain;

4   said first web server having:

5   a first user tracker to collect client information and ~stores~

6   <u>store</u> client information as a client record in a cookie coordinator database;

7   a redirector for the first web server to direct a client to

8   access a resource at the second web server;

9   an encapsulator for said resource to encapsulate information

10   about a location of the client record in the database; and

11   said second web server having:

12   a second user tracker for the second web server to use the client

13   record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism; and

14   a decapsulator for the second web server to decapsulate a

15   location and ~retrieving~ <u>retrieve</u> the client record from the database.

1   Claim 22. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer

2   usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein

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3   for causing tracking of users, the computer readable program code means in
4   said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means
5   for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 21.

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